California GARDEN

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1998 Volume 89 No. 5 $1.50

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

BEGINNING SEPT. 1 - 15 WEEKS

BETTY NEWTON'S FALL CLASSES Flower Gardens: Year Round Color. Perennials, Bulbs & Old-Fashioned Roses. Grossmont High School, Rm 51, 1100 Murray Dr., La Mesa. Tuesday Evening 6:20-9:30PM. 579-4790. $24.

BEGINNING SEPT. 3 - 12 WEEKS

BETTY NEWTON'S FALL CLASSES Landscaping: Trees, Shrubs & Flowers. Foothills Adult Education Center, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. Thurs. 8:50AM-Noon. 579-4790. $24.

SEPT. 1, 15, 22 & 29

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Contemporary Flower Arrg. classes V. West. Casa del Prado. 9:30AM-2:30PM. 232-5762. @$20 (1) or $50 (4).

SEPT. 13

SAN DIEGO IMPERIAL COUNTY IRIS SOCIETY Plant Sale (Rhizomes). Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, Patio B. Sun. 10AM-3PM.

SEPT. 15

UCLA EXTENSION Open House. Information on Gardening & Horticulture Certification Program. 10995 Le Conte Ave, Westwood. Rm. G33 West. Tues. 6:30PM. 310/825-9971 Free.

SEPT. 18, 19 & 20

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY Fall Rhizone Sale. Promenade Mall, Woodland Hills. Topanga Canyon Blvd., One half mile north of Ventura Freeway (101). 9AM-6PM. 818/352-7018.

SEPT. 26-27

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB 33rd. Anniversary Fall Show & Plant Sale. Lectures & Demo. Casa del Prado, Balboa Pk. Sat.& Sun. 10AM-5PM. Free.

OCT. 3-4

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA S. Lahey, Instructor 30th Anniversary Show. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat. & Sun. 11AM-4:30PM.

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA 25th. Anniversary in San Diego. Town & Country Hotel, Convention Center. Prof. Suzuki Demonstration Sat. 10:30AM.; Workshop & Demo. Sun. 10:30AM & 1PM. Luncheon & Workshop Call 272-7088.

OCT. 5

PALOMAR DISTRICT DESIGN FORUM Sadako Oehler, Ikebana. R. B. Community Presbyterian Church. Pomerado/RB Road. 12:30-3PM. $35 Series. $8 Door. 760/749-2654.

OCT. 6

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Succulent Wreath Class. Holiday or Heart. K. Walsh. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. 9:30AM-2:30PM. 232-5762. $35 Nonmember; $25 Member.

OCT. 8-11

THE ARBORETUM OF LA COUNTY 1998 L A Garden Show "Gardens of the Silver Screen" 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. 9AM-7PM. 626/447-8207. $8 at gate; $7 presale.

OCT. 10

DESCANSO GARDENS Fall Planting. 1418 Descanso Dr., La Canada Flintridge. 10AM-Noon. 818/949-7980. $16 Fee.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Tour. L. A. Garden Show. Floral Design, Lectures & Demo. Incl. Lunch. RSVP 232-5762. $43/$40.

OCT. 10-11

FULLERTON ARBORETUM Fall Grand Opening Plant Sale. 1900 Association Rd. Fullerton. 10AM-4PM. 714/278-3404. $5.

OCT. 13

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Appalachia Basket Class. M. Rosenberg. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. 9:30AM-2:30PM. 232-5762. $25 Nonmembers & $20 Members.

OCT. 14

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Tour. Lotusland, Montecito. Includes Lunch & Dinner. RSVP 232-5762. $53 Nonmember & $50 Member.

OCT. 17

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY "Coastal Sage Scrub Resoration" at La Jolla, Scripps Inst., Sumner Aud., on Sat., 8:30AM-7:00PM. Symposium, luncheon, low tea $45 student or CNPS member, $85 nonmember. Call 619/685-7321 or www.san.rr.com/cnpssd/

OCT. 17-18

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY Show. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat. Noon-4PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM. Free.

DESCANSO GARDENS Rose Show. 1418 Descanso Dr., La Canada Flintridge. Sat. 1-4PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM. 818/952-4401. $5, $3 (Senior).

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THE MAGAZINE FOR THE HANDS-ON GARDENER

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1998

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FRONT AND BACK COVER illustrations of daylilies by Lori Austin of La Habra, Calif. On the front, from left to right, are large, double, and spider types.

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FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairman contact *California Garden*, 232-5762 if you want the magazine sold at your show.

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(HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR, from p. 130)

OCT. 20 & 27

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Two Ring Basket Class. K. Walsh & M. Rosenberg. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. 9:30AM-2:30PM. 2-day Class. 232-5762. $30/$25.

OCT. 20

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Quarterly Dinner Meeting/Program. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Tues. 5:45PM Social. 232-5762. Advanced Reservation $5.

OCT. 31 - NOV. 1

S.D. TROPICAL FISH SOCIETY Show. Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. Sat. Noon-6PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM. Free.

NOV. 3, 10, 17 & 24

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Flower Arrg. Classes. V. West. Casa del Prado, Balboa Pk. 9:30AM-2:30PM. 232-5762. @$20 (1), $50 Series.

BALBOA PARK: ONGOING PROGRAMS

DLY. SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN Docent Tours. Info 232-2780. Fee.

SAT. OFFSHOOT TOURS 1Hr. Meet Botanical Lath House. 10AM. 235-1121. Free.

TUES. INTERPRETIVE WALKS Ranger guided. Meet Visitors Center. 10AM. 235-1211. Free.

ONGOING EVENTS

THE HUNTINGTON Second Thursday Garden Talk Series: 2:30PM. 626/405-2141.

ZORO GARDEN NATURE PROGRAM Between R.H. Fleet Science Ctr. & Casa de Balboa Bldg, Balboa Park. 1st. Sunday. Sept 6th. Raptor Education; Oct. 4th Kumeyaay History & Culture. Noon-1PM . Call 232-1121.

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, Satellite Wagering Facility. Del Mar Fairgrounds. 2nd. Monday. Sept. 14th. S. Kerins, Herbs; Oct. 12th. F. Boutin, Heritage Roses. 756-3431.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS
230 Quail Garden Dr., Encinitas. Garden Tours & Events. 9AM-5PM. 436-4032.

BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Walks. Poway. Sat. & Sun. 9AM. 486-7238.

Deadline for submission to HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR for Nov./Dec. issue is Sept. 15. SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations.

THE DORIS WOOD COTTAGE GARDEN AND NURSERY

The Doris Wood Cottage Garden & Nursery is a one acre, "English-style" perennial garden. Paths wind through rose covered arbors and rose bordered walks. An original "canvas" of flowering plants and shrubs greets the eye at every turn. Pale yellow Scabiosa, bicolor Salvia and a rare, pink Chaste Tree are among the thousands of plants in the garden.

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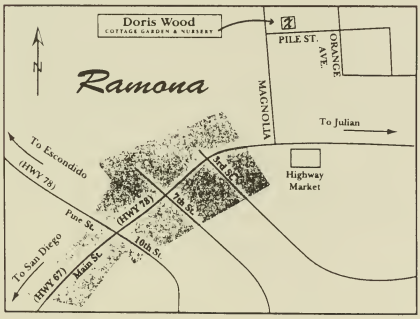
Admission is free. A donation box is located in the garden; proceeds help maintain the garden.



We are located 30 miles northeast of San Diego and 15 miles southeast of Escondido. The Community of Ramona has many interesting stores and restaurants to explore and enjoy.

Information
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THE FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW AT THE 1998 DEL MAR FAIR

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Cuyamaca College Botanical Society.....Evergreen Nursery
Dee Bennett Rose Award.....San Diego Rose Society
Don Diego Trophy.....Mira Costa College-Hort
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Hardscape Feature Award.....Blue Horizon Landscape
Irrigation Award.....Top to Bottom Landscaping
Landscape Contractors/Most Creative.Top to Bottom Landscaping
Landscape Contractors/Most Practical.....Blue Horizon Landscape
Manager's Trophy.....Weidners' Gardens
Massachusetts Hort Society Gold Medal.....Evergreen Nursery
New Exhibitor Award.....Armstrong Garden Centers
Niche Award.....Lion In The Sun... Florals Unique
Outstanding Youth Garden.....Regional Youth Educational Facility
Patio Garden Award.....Grossmont Garden Club
Paul Ecke, Sr Trophy.....Evergreen Nursery
Royal Hort Society Award.....Geri Minott and Ginny Griffiths
San Diego County Award.....San Diego County Farm Bureau
San Diego County Water Authority
Educational.....Geri Minott and Ginny Griffiths
1st non-commercial.....Geri Minott and Ginny Griffiths
1st commercial.....Designs by Shellene
1st Youth.....San Marcos High School FFA
Best Specimen Plants.....Michael and Joyce Buckner
2nd commercial.....Solana Succulents
2nd Non-commercial.....Michael and Joyce Buckner
2nd Youth.....Escondido Creek Student Community
San Diego Floral Assoc Award.....Grossmont Garden Club
San Diego Hort Society Award.....San Diego Fern Society
Theme Award - Niche.....Lion In The Sun... Florals Unique
Theme Award - Garden.....Evergreen Nursery
Unique Landscape Award.....Solana Succulents
Walter Anderson Award.....Blue Horizon Landscape Development
Water Feature Award.....Weidners' Gardens
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Gleanings . . .

PERENNIAL GRAINS . . .
Plant scientists are experimenting with modern crop-breeding techniques to develop high-yield perennial grains. Why? Because perennial plants do not require the extensive yearly plowing necessary for the growing of annual grains. This will help to control erosion and save valuable soil that now washes or blows away when the ground is bare. One of the most active research programs is being conducted at the University of Northern Iowa. Texas A & M University has already developed a perennial strain of sorghum and Washington State University has developed a perennial wheat.

PERLITE AND VERMICULITE
Both Perlite and Vermiculite are minerals that have been expanded by heat to form lightweight, porous granules. Both are used in soil mixes for containers. Both aid in making the soil drain better.

Soil recipes usually recommend about one-fourth of either Perlite or Vermiculite. Some gardeners use higher amounts when starting cuttings.

BEAGLE BRIGADE . . .
Fruit and meat often innocently carried into the United States can cause serious damage to America's food supply. Officers of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service inspect passenger baggage for undeclared agricultural products at airports and Ports of Entry. Baggage and luggage are usually inspected by low-energy x-ray machines adapted to reveal fruits and meats but "Beagle Brigade" dogs that are trained to sniff out prohibited items are now being used. You will recognize these cute little "detectives" because they wear green coats. Beagles are frisky, good tempered, hunting dogs that are fun to observe out in a field following a scent. Although other breeds of dogs are used to detect drugs, apparently beagles have the best noses for agricultural purposes. The dogs in the "Beagle Brigade" are especially trained to sniff out undesirable fruits, vegetables or meats only.

B·E·A·G·L·E
B·R·I·G·A·D·E

HAZARDOUS TREES . . .
We are fortunate in the San Diego area that we rarely have heavy winds, but winter is coming and it is time to take a look at older trees and see if some trimming of large limbs needs to be done before one falls on your roof or automobile. Even large limbs can be weakened by rubbing against other limbs, so remove the offending limb. Any dead limb over one inch in diameter is a hazard. Remove it.

Many of our eucalyptus are getting older and the branches are becoming heavy. If you look up into the tree and see evidence that a branch is twisting next to the trunk, it could fall. (The bark will show the twisting.)

DWARF TREES . . .
Fruit trees are attractive additions to the garden, but many do not grow them because of lack of space. This is not always a problem. There are many varieties of dwarf fruit trees. A dwarf tree is smaller than the standard form but the fruit is the same size and taste. Many of these dwarfs do well in containers, too.

Many ornamental plants are being introduced in dwarf size. If you are a patio or deck gardener check with your local nurseryman, you will be surprised at the new introductions. Even the yard gardener will find new uses for old standbys in a smaller version.

PAPER-WHITES NOW . . .
Even if you do not plan to be planting your paperwhite narcissus for holiday blooming until November, keep an eye on your local garden store. These popular bulbs are bought-out quickly, and "when they're gone, they're gone." Some of the larger bulbs will have more than one flower stem. Store the bulbs in a cool, dark place until ready to plant or place on pebbles for water forcing. Many are sold in perforated plastic bags and they seem to last without rotting.

DAYLILIES: THE PERFECT PERENNIAL

BY GARY COLBY

I KNOW OF NO perennial that will give more beauty, relative to the amount of effort spent growing it, than the daylily. Dahlias give more bloom per plant, but they do not like Southern California's cool summers and wet winters. Orchids are glorious but are considerably more limiting than daylilies. True lilies (*Lilium*) are un- surpassed for a few weeks a year, unless a Santa Ana melts them, and you end up with only a few days of bloom.

When most people think of daylilies, "ditch" daylilies or the hugh masses of orange or yellow "landscape" daylilies come to mind. The form, quality, and beauty of the daylily has been improved so much in the last seven to ten years that thinking of a daylily that was hybridized twenty years ago is like a horse and buggy compared to modern transportation. Like fine wines, a new vocabulary is needed to describe them. Words such as full, round, overlapped, serrated, edged, creped, corduroy, pleated, watermark, spatulate, spider, double, hose in hose, bud building, branching, and bud count are being used by today's hybridizers. Today daylilies are being bred with ¼" creped, gold edges and in every color except blue. They range in size from less than 1" to more than 12".

We are fortunate in Southern California that we can enjoy bloom from mid-March until Thanksgiving. While peak bloom is in May and June, there are a few cultivars that will bloom all year here, although at a greatly reduced rate in the winter months. Because of our often cool evenings it is important to choose daylilies that open well after a cool night. Also, because of our mild winters many dormant daylilies decline in vigor until they just give up and disappear.

Daylilies that stay green all year are called **evergreens**. Those that die down to the ground and then come up fresh in spring are called **deciduous** or **dormant**. There are many dormants that do well here, but there are also a great many that cannot survive our mild winters. Then there is an in-between class called **semi-evergreens** that act like evergreens here.

A Little Bit About Culture

In order of importance, daylilies need: 1. Water 2. Water 3. Water 4. Good soil 5. At least one-half a day of sun and preferably a full day of sun 6. A balanced fertilizer in the spring and fall is recommended. 7. There are so few pest problems it is not worth mentioning them.

It is unfortunate that daylilies have lily in their name as they are not really lilies and do not form a bulb. Daylilies have completely different habits, culture, and assets from true lilies. The more accurate name is *Hemerocallis*, which is derived from two Greek words meaning beauty and day, or beautiful for a day. Each blossom declines at night and the next morning a fresh new flower may be there to greet you. Because the blossoms last for only a day, it is important to choose plants that repeat quickly and often, as well as plants that produce lots of buds.

Fall-Blooming Daylilies For Southern California

We are fortunate in that most daylilies will repeat bloom. Those that are strongly **remontant** (repeating) such as 'Pirate's Patch' can rebloom as often as eight times here and give spring, summer and fall bloom. With forty thousand named, introduced cultivars, it is impossible to know them all, let alone name them. Some worthy of consideration for fall bloom are: species *Hemerocallis altissima* and *H. multiflora*, and hybrids;

'Bitsy' - a miniature dark yellow trumpet-shaped flower that is almost always in bloom,

'Beat the Barons' - a small buttercup yellow with a large mauve-red eyezone, heavy bloomer,

'Butterscotch Ruffles' - a small peach blend,
'Cherry Chapeau' - a bright, cheerful, ruffled, bicolored hem with rose-red petals and flesh-cream sepals,
'Cranberry Baby' - a small raspberry-red, round flower with darker eyezone that blooms from May to frost,
'Dazzel' - a 3½-inch orchid-lavender flower with a purple eyezone that continues to build buds after it starts blooming,
'El Desperado' - a mustard yellow with a plum-purple eyezone and plum-purple picotee edge,
'Joan Senior' - an older, near white self with lime-green throat,
'Malaysian Monarch' - a wonderful purple self from Bill Munson,
'Pirate's Patch' - a buttercup yellow with a huge magenta-purple eyezone and ruffled picotee edge of magenta purple,
'Razzel' - ruffled, rounded, flat rich-dark-violet with a big, bold, dark-purple eyezone,
'Study in Scarlet' - scarlet self,
'Tuscawilla Tigress' - a 7¼-inch thick rich, orange red that blooms heavily and until it gets San Diego cold,
'Uptown Girl' - a light pink with crepe ruffling and a thin gold edge that blooms heavily with over fifty buds,
'Whooperee' - a 3½-inch red from Gates,
'Yabba Dabba Doo' - a dark-magenta-red spider that received the highest award for spiders in 1997 (AHS Olson Award).

Because of our unique weather, the great improvements through hybridizing, and high prices that some daylilies command, it is important to know your future plants grow well in Southern California before taking them home. The American Hemerocallis Society's (AHS) Internet home page lists four "Display Gardens" in California that are open to the public; **www.daylilies.org/daylilies.html**

The best places to view and purchase daylilies in California are: Buena Creek Gardens in San Marcos 760/744-2810, Amador Flower Farms near Plymouth 209/245-6660, Covered Bridge Gardens in Chico 530/342-6661, and Benrose in Arroyo Grande 805/481-5344. There are also four AHS clubs that meet regularly in California.

www.distinctly.on.ca/otherwww.htm lists 113 Websites devoted to daylilies.□

Gary Colby has completed the Master Gardener program and grows many things, including over 350 different daylilies, by over 80 hybridizers. They are grown in his backyard in Mira Mesa in the city of San Diego. Visitors are welcome by appointment. Call 619/566-0503. Drawings by Lori Austin.

Sitting by the rushing river - on the leaves of reeds that quiver, Faeries gaze at skies so blue - while sipping tea of morning dew.

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BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: THE GIANT SWALLOWTAIL©

BY PAT PAWLOWSKI

TO ALL YOU GARDENERS who are still partly little kids inside: Here is a real-life, true fairy tale and how you can make it happen in your very own kingdom—your yard.

Once upon a time, an adult female giant swallowtail butterfly (*Papilio cresphontes*) laid an egg on the leaf of a citrus tree. The egg hatched, and out came a tiny little caterpillar. As the caterpillar grew, it became easier to see, perhaps unfortunately so. It strongly resembled a bird dropping. It was pretty beastly-looking (until the viewer remembered that this little lump that resembled bird doo would eventually turn into a gorgeous yellow and black butterfly).

After munching on citrus leaves, its larval-food plant, and growing to look even a little beastlier (to the uninitiated), the caterpillar formed a chrysalis, which looked like a dried, curled-up leaf.

After a week or so—and here comes the magic—out from the chrysalis came beauty itself, a gorgeous giant swallowtail butterfly with gleaming yellow and black wings, fully 6 inches wide, one of the largest butterflies in North America.

And then off the beauty flew.

FROM SEMI-FARAWAY LANDS

The giant swallowtail is a fairly recent addition to California's butterfly population. It is common in Florida and in many central and southern states. In 1961 it was observed in California's Imperial Valley and since then has spread to other citrus-growing areas in California. Now, it is becoming more and more visible in San Diego County due to the inclusion of citrus—its larval-food plant—in orchards and gardens throughout the area.

To those unfortunates who do not understand the term "larval-food plant," here is a brief synopsis of the butterfly life cycle:

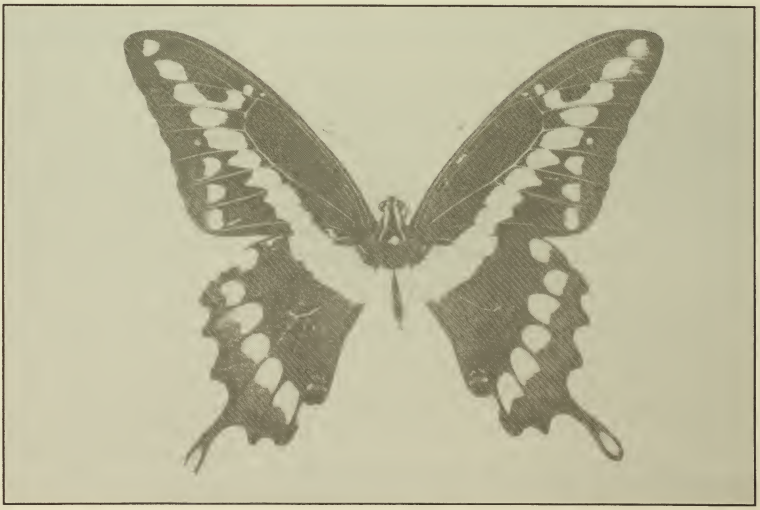
The egg is laid by the female butterfly on the leaves of the larval-food plant, or "host plant."

The egg hatches into a minuscule caterpillar, which then sustains itself by consuming parts of the larval-food plant. The caterpillars of most butterfly species can subsist on a very limited range of plants, and the food plant needs of each species differ, so it is important to know which caterpillar species requires which plant or plant family on which to feed.

An interesting sidelight occurs in the caterpillar stage of the giant swallowtail: the **osmeterium**. This little Y-shaped gland is bright orange. If a predator gets too close, the caterpillar will extend its teeny weeny osmeterium, which emits a puff of odor, to frighten away the intruder. Scary, huh? Actually not—but very interesting and, to some of us butterfly nuts, kind of cute.

After several weeks, the 2½-inch caterpillar pupates, forming a pupa, or chrysalis, that looks remarkably like a withered, curled-up leaf.

Now the real magic begins—metamorphosis. After



a matter of days a regal, sunshine-yellow and midnight-black-patterned butterfly will emerge from that wizened leaf-like structure.

It will then dry its wings and fly off, seeking a royal consort. Along the way it will need nectar to sustain itself. An adult butterfly never eats plant material; instead, it drinks flower nectar and other fluids, potions that can be provided by you, the fairy godmother—or godfather—gardener.

So we see that to make our yards the most enticing to butterflies, we need to include larval-food plants for the caterpillar to nosh and nectar plants for the adult butterflies to swig.

LARVAL-FOOD PLANTS

The giant swallowtail utilizes various members of the *Rutaceae* (rue family) as larval-food plants. In some areas of North America, the herb rue (*Ruta graveolens*) and its relatives are used. In California, the giant primarily uses citrus (orange, lemon, lime and others).

There are lots of reasons to grow citrus. Here are a few of them:

The trees are invaluable in the landscape, since they are handsome and look great even in the dead of winter. In addition, some varieties can be pruned and grown as a hedge—indeed, the thorns on some types may act as a barrier if such is needed. And for those with small yards, or only balconies, there are dwarf varieties of citrus that thrive in containers.

Home-grown citrus, especially oranges, always seem to taste better than those purchased at a market (although this belief may have somewhat psychological origins). The fragrance of citrus is mysterious and of honeylike sweetness. The blossoms smell delicious at night, too.

A hummingbird will take nectar from the flowers, and will appreciate a citrus tree in which to perch and perhaps even build a nest. And, last but not ever least, you may lure a giant swallowtail to your yard.

Now that you're ready to plant a citrus, which kind is best? And when should you plant it? The best plan may be to visit a nursery first and eyeball the citrus selection. If you're serious, invest in a good gardening book; there are even ones entirely devoted to the growing of citrus.

Valencia oranges and Washington navel oranges are two of the most popular varieties, and both grow well in our area. Since the fruits of each variety ripen at different times of the year, you might get one of each. Remember, if you are limited spacewise you can buy dwarf varieties.

A good planting time for citrus is early spring. Make sure you plant them in full sun, in soil that has good drainage. If you have mucky clay soil, plant them in a raised bed. Water liberally but don't overdo it.

To foil pests, wash leaves off once in a while. Keep ants out by applying a 2-inch band of Vaseline around the trunk of the tree. You don't want ants because they will protect and encourage aphids, those notorious plant leaf-suckers that reproduce like crazy. In addition, ants are the nemesis of butterfly-lovers everywhere: Ants are voracious eaters of butterfly eggs and caterpillars.

As time goes by, we are seeing more and more orange trees and their relatives in Southern California yards, and for good reason—newly transplanted Easterners easily become enamored of citrus. To many, it's like a fairy tale come true: Having left a frigid, leafless, Arctic-like area in December, recently-arrived ex-freezees find handsome leafy trees bearing luscious, edible orange, yellow, and green globes. Can this be anything but magic? And, as more citrus is planted, the giant may very well secure a foothold (or winghold) in Southern California. Perhaps growers will consider it a pest; however, there's bound to be a way to limit crop damage, if it comes to that.

As for our yards, the sight of a giant swallowtail gliding imperiously among the lantana more than equals a few munched-on leaves.

NECTAR PLANTS

We all have our favorite libations. For giant swallowtail adults, here is a partial list of savories:

Honeysuckles (*Lonicera spp.*): Clambering vine; fragrance is especially pungent in the early morning and at dusk. It likes moist garden soil. Plant in sun; as shade deepens, flowering decreases.

Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) has been called invasive or rampant. From my point of view, any plant that smells as good as honeysuckle can be as rampant as it pleases.

Hall's honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica* 'Halliana') bears two-inch white flowers that turn creamy yellow on the second day. It is said to be less invasive than *L. japonica*. It is also a good plant for erosion control.

If you like native plants, you could try a native honeysuckle like *Lonicera subspicata*. Visit a native plant nursery to see what they have.

Lantana: An all-around wonderful nectar plant, also invaluable in the landscape. Lantana is drought tolerant and the purple variety is used to control erosion. All it asks is sun and a little water occasionally. It blooms continuously along the coast and always looks good. Inland, it becomes a bit sparse and depressed-looking in

(continued on page 150)

CERTAIN BEARDED IRISES WILL BLOOM AGAIN IN SUMMER OR FALL

BY DELORES McCORNACK

IRISES HAVE BEEN SPRING flowers, but in recent years they also bloom in the summer and fall—if you order the right ones. Don not expect that of your old varieties.

Iris germanica, the best-known species of the genus, is the tall bearded iris we know and love. Irises flower in a variety of colors, with ruffles, flutes, beards and variations to boggle the mind. They've been called the poor man's orchid, but they do not need a hothouse, or a consistent climate to flourish. Their sword-like leaves are attractive, before and after blooming.

The mid-western pioneers called irises "flags." I grew up in the mid-west, where ladies would exchange "starts" of flags. I always loved irises. When I converted my front yard, eight years ago from water-hungry lawn to a tree and flower garden, I began planting irises here and there and began a scattering of flowering bushes, perennials, and annuals. My garden is a hodgepodge, and the irises are my main attraction and my star bloomers.

I live on a hill in El Cajon, where the lots were scraped down to clay and boulders, and then a few inches of top soil dumped on top. Fortunately, irises are shallow growing. Given a bit of fertilizer and water at appropriate times they respond well. They need at least a half-day of sun. Some of my irises are quite shaded at times and it doesn't hurt them a bit. They can be neglected and still bloom.

CULTURE

- Irises can be planted any time after the bloom, but fall is usually the best time. The soil should be loosened and prepared with a handful of bonemeal dug in, or a 0-10-10 fertilizer. No nitrogen in the fall, please. Irises are rhizomes, not bulbs, and are to be planted shallowly, barely covering the top of the rhizome, but with the roots allowed to spread and go as deep as need be. When growth begins in the spring, scratch in a handful of 5-10-10 or any low-nitrogen fertilizer around the plants.
- Hope for rain then, or water them and pay attention and give them an extra spray or water when you see a swelling of a leaf. The blooms form within a leaf. In winter I cut back the leaves to about six inches and clean out the old leaves. Irises do not like to be smothered in ground cover.
- Irises do like good drainage, but my yard slopes toward the street slightly, and it is very seldom that El Cajon gets or remains soggy. They do well in a raised planter bed if you have one.

I ordered my first iris collection from Cooley's in Oregon. There are other, closer firms such as Ramona Gardens, Buena Creek Gardens, and Nancy Webb in Orange County (see below) who sell iris rhizomes. Cooley's yearly catalogue is a gorgeous publication, one to keep, read and enjoy. If you order by a certain date, you also are sent beautiful calendar with pictures of their irises. There is information on iris culture. The variety of new colors and combinations is astounding. One can order a collection for very little money.

Recently I have been purchasing some reblooming collections that flower in the spring, rest, and then bloom again in the late summer and fall. They are called rebloomers. I enjoy the bonus bloom. Such beauties as **'Clarence'**-dark lavender to light lavender and white, **'Autumn'**-white with purple border, **'Jennifer Rebecca'**-shades of pink with orange beards and standards, and **'Best Bet'**-lavender blue with white standards are thrilling to behold in their colors.

Irises can be planted in beds, rows, or as I prefer, here and there in the garden. They are tough, and readily respond to a bit of care. They need to be dug up and divided when they become too thick. They do not have many diseases or pests. However, snails like them. They make lovely bouquets and are useful in mixed bouquets or sophisticated arrangements in the house. Their blooms last several days.

There is a national iris society:
The American Iris Society
P.O. Box 55
Freedom, CA 95019-0055

There is also a local organization, The San Diego/Imperial Counties Iris Society. I purchased some rhizomes several years ago when that group had a show in San Diego's Balboa Park. The show is announced each spring in the *San Diego Union-Tribune* and in *California Garden*. (Steven Rocha is president, e-mail at srocha@pacbell.net, or call 760/788-1423.)

Just as with rose hybridizers the commercial iris

nurseries and individuals continue to develop new combinations of colors and variations of beards and ruffles. It is all quite fascinating, but the best part of raising irises is that with only a little effort this hearty plant responds with gorgeous blooms and multiplies endlessly.

NURSERIES:
Buena Creek Gardens, 418 Buena Creek Road, San Marcos
or MAIL ORDER: Cooley's Gardens, Box 126-WG, Silverton, OR, 97381; Nancy Webb, Ramona Gardens, 2178 El Paso, Ramona CA 92065 (Listings sent with receipt of self-addressed envelope.)
All Seasons Iris Gardens, 35912 Bonadelle, Madera CA 93638-8444□

Delores McCornack gardens on clay soil about twenty miles from the coast. She is often observed giving extra water to her irises, which bloom throughout the year.

REBLOOMING IRISES

BY MARY McBRIDE

FOR THOSE OF YOU who are interested in adding reblooming iris to your gardens, summer and fall are the time to plant. Southern California is a unique climate for rebloomers. With a little attention to bloom times, you can have irises blooming year-round. There are even dwarfs (6-12″) and intermediate sizes (20-30″) for small gardens and containers.

Dwarf irises are not commonly thought to do well here, but I have had great success with **'Jewel Baby'.** It is dark purple with violet beards, and has bloomed consistently from spring through fall. **'Third World'** is blue violet with neon-blue beards and has done as well. There are two species dwarfs to look for, *Iris lutescens* (purple) and *I. italica* (blue violet). Both bloom year-round.

Mid-size irises are divided into **border** and **intermediates** based on their heights. These are excellent irises for smaller gardens and the perfect size and scale for containers. They may not have the height of the **talls**, but they often put on the biggest show. Look for **'Queen Dorothy'** a ruffled white with violet **plicata** (dotting or veining of a darker color) markings. It puts on a big display summer and fall. **'Lo Ho Silver'** is a silvery white with yellow beards, blooms year-round and grows like a weed.**'Pink Attraction'** is a heavily ruffled pink with tangerine beards, and is rarely out of bloom. **'Eleanor Roosevelt'** is red violet with yellow-tipped beards, and is a reliable year-round bloomer. It was created in 1933. **'Cheers'** is a crisp white with red-orange beards and never fails to bloom for Christmas.

One of my favorite **talls** is actually a bit short, about 30″. **'Cease Fire'** is ruffled, sparkling white with yellow-tipped beards—perfect proportions and huge displays spring and fall. **'Ruth's Love'** has yellow standards and white-banded, yellow falls. It reblooms heavily in fall and winter. So does **'His Royal Highness'.** It is a rich deep purple with dark beards. **'Anxious'** and 'Late Lilac', both lavenders, are fall to winter rebloomers. **'Happy New Year'** is a ruffled, cream to pale yellow, sprinkled with violet "confetti." It blooms intermittently year-round but never fails to bloom New Year's Day. **'Shoot the Moon'**, a clear lemon yellow, is a reliable winter rebloomer as is **'Pure as Gold'**.

The mid-summer rebloomers include **'Priscilla of Corinth'**, a ruffled peach with tangerine beards, and **'Fame'**, a bright yellow orange with red-orange beards. It looks very good with "hot" summer colors. **'Cayenne Capers'** is a glowing red bronze with plicata markings on the falls. It had six bloom stalks this week! **'City Lights'** is a deep blue violet with a white flash around the beards. It reblooms summer and fall.

When you go shopping for irises, do not limit yourself to the few I've mentioned. There are many other equally good rebloomers. Ask your fellow gardeners, local iris club, or nursery for their recommendations.

Some items to remember; rebloomers need water

(continued on page 142)

GARDENING IN PARADISE: PITFALLS AND PLEASANT SURPRISES

BY FREDRIK LILJEBLAD

SAN DIEGO! To a young Swedish boy used to having lush, flower-filled summer gardens transformed into moonscapes of frozen white for many months of the year, the very name San Diego was as exotic as Zanzibar or Tierra del Fuego, as mythical as Timbuktu. When I was a small child, Swedish TV carried a weekly series about the famous San Diego Zoo to which I sat riveted every Sunday evening. As an embryonic gardener, my interest, I confess, lay more with the exotic flora—palm trees and bougainvillea, and the sun-flooded landscape—than with lumbering rhinos.

Many years later, after gardening in places with climates as diverse as Britain, Central Mexico, New York State, Tokyo, and Bangkok, I finally made it to San Diego—my choice influenced at least 50 percent by horticultural reasons. It has now been four years since I started gardening in "paradise," and I have learned a lot. I thought I'd share some of my experiences with those of you who take this unique climate—if not for granted, at least as perfectly natural.

All gardeners, however skilled or maladroit, have their little successes and failures. I remember the wonderful master gardener Thalassa Cruso (does anyone still remember that marvelous woman?) complaining bitterly that I seemed to do so much better with epiphyllums (as forced cold greenhouse plants) than she, while I recall being envious of her skill with clivias—something I only did well with years later in the hospitable climate of Japan. Gardening in the San Diego climate, despite its many pleasant surprises, has been in many ways an object lesson in humility. Plants whose culture I arrogantly believed I had "mastered," failed miserably because I'd misunderstood their different needs in the San Diego context. And no one can say I hadn't done my homework. For at least a year before my move, I pored over *Sunset Western Garden Book* as some people do over the *Bible*. Robert Smaus's *Planning and Planting the Garden* and Pat Welsh's *Southern California Gardening*, too, were constant companions during my first year here. Nothing, however, is a substitute for hands-on experience.

So now, more than four years later, with some failures and some successes—and quite a few "maybes" under my belt, these are some things I've had to accommodate to and learn from:

The first thing I had to disabuse myself of here in San Diego was the idea that this was an arid, desertlike climate. Before getting here (toward the end of the infamous drought), I imagined that I'd have to be very ingenious in making a little water go a long way. Water *was* a problem, as I discovered my first winter here. Plants that I thought would take care of themselves sulked or went into a decline as they sat in cold, damp soil. I had spent so much energy in mixing in huge amounts of peat moss in an effort to maximize retention of the precious water that I—with the help of the winter rains—turned my plants' soil into peat bogs. Beginner's luck must have been with me because I didn't lose a single plant. My two hibiscuses, however, dropped all their leaves and didn't recover until the following July. That was water lesson number one.

My next, more chastening experience, occurred with a plant that I'd had laughably few problems with in other climates: tuberous begonias. For years, I'd "effortlessly" (naturally, I put *some* effort into them) produced magnificent tuberous begonias of near-exhibition quality every summer in such climates as Sweden, Shropshire, England, and the east coast of the U.S. My first winter in San Diego, I eagerly ordered several dozen tubers from Antonelli's and from White Flower Farm in Connecticut. As always, I started them in February in individual peat pots filled with my tried-and-true mixture of one-third each potting soil, peat moss, and sand. Since these pots were kept on an east-facing ledge under the eaves of my house, the rains weren't a factor. Lo and behold, they did beautifully. By April I had sturdy, beautiful young tuberous begonia plants. I potted them up in suitably-sized plastic pots using the same soil mix, this time enriched with some leaf mold. I carefully distributed them around the garden under, or in the shade of, various shrubs so that they

would get their favorite filtered sun. Again, everything was fine until the second week in May.

Then, like a punishment from the Gods, "May Grey" arrived, followed by "June Gloom" (I live at the western edge of zone 23, and for all intents and purposes, much of the time the climate here is coastal). For six long weeks there was virtually no morning sun. Since my garden faces southeast, on the days when the sun broke through by 11:00, my poor begonias got some light. On the majority of days, however, when sun came at 2:00 or 4:00 p.m., they got no sun at all. The combination of the plastic pots (an economy measure) and the clammy weather was a death knell. One by one, my promising begonias either rotted off near the tuber, or became so checked in their growth by the lack of sun that they became spindly, pathetic plants, producing only a few flowers all summer. Oddly, I never did have a case of mildew—just your basic rot due to water mold.

The "May Grey/June Gloom" phenomenon has proved to be the true serpent in Eden. Although never as dramatic as my begonia debacle, many of my heat-loving plants start boogying away in March and April, only to have their good times checked by the onset of cool, damp, cloudy weather. Everything then comes to a standstill until the sun comes out once more in early July. This has made me rethink many of my garden effects, and I now rely on my many fuchsias and patches of double impatiens to give me color during those grey months. I never use peat moss any more, relying on ground fir bark and/or perlite to make the compost-enriched soil more porous.

Those were the hard and sad lessons—ones that I have taken to heart. But I'm not ungrateful. There are so many compensations. My camellias, now that I have eliminated most of the formal doubles from my collection (80% of the buds invariably "bullnosed" in this near-coastal climate), are splendid and nearly effortless—just like when I lived in Japan. Being able to garden in shorts and having cymbidiums, some fuchsias, and birds-of-paradise in bloom when most of this hemisphere is shrouded in snow is a thrill that has never left me. Like most gardeners, I am acutely aware of the seasons and look forward to each of the many special floral treats that come my way all year long here in San Diego. □

Fredrik Liljeblad has been a professional writer for over twenty years. He is the author of numerous textbooks on language learning and cookery, as well as a producer of educational videos.

Strelitzia drawing by Roland S. Hoyt

Cymbidium drawing by Yuko Green for Dover books

Cymbidium

(**"Reblooming Irises,"** continued from page 140)

and feeding throughout the summer to keep blooming. A high-acid food works well. Irises "change" color to some degree because of soils, temperature, humidity, and age of the flower. 'Happy New Year' is pale yellow in winter, cream in the spring and summer. Pastel summer rebloomers will look better with afternoon shade except on the coast. Be patient. Rebloomers can take up to a year to settle into their rebloom pattern. If possible, buy locally as rebloomers tend to be regional. Winter chill factors are the culprits.

Rebloomers are gaining popularity across the country, and we have the perfect climate for year-round bloom. So this year, treat yourself to irises for Christmas or Halloween or the Fourth of July or whenever! □

Mary McBride is the nursery manager at Buena Creek Gardens. She owes her iris addiction to Bernard Hamner and Bob Brooks. She gardens in San Marcos and Vista.

VISITING SOUTHERN GARDENS

BY ROBERT HORWITZ

YOUR TRAVELING GARDENER JUST returned from a wonderful trip to the Deep South, visiting Charleston, S.C., Atlanta, and Savannah, Ga. and many points between. It is a different climate compared to ours with different things growing, different seasons, and different methods of gardening. There were two gardens in particular that I would like to write about. The first was the Magnolia Gardens in Charleston. This garden today is over five hundred acres in extent, quite a bit smaller than it was when it was a plantation rather than a garden. They grew rice and cotton there with the help of over one hundred slaves. The main plantation house is now restored, and there are several other structures from those old times also restored to resemble their original uses. The gardens that are there now are typical of those of the Deep South with huge trees draped with Spanish moss, lakes, both large and small with water lilies, many basking turtles, and even an alligator or two.

Magnolia Gardens with Spanish moss and lake

The magnolia trees were in bloom. The trees were fifty to seventy feet tall and some of the blossoms were six inches across. Roses were everywhere, mostly old-fashioned ones, both bushes and climbers. The contrast plants to the trees and large shrubs were azaleas and impatiens. I grew a little frustrated because many plants were strange to this Southern Californian and there were few labels telling me at what I was looking. The weather for this part of the country was good, about 85° with 85% humidity, so one did not move too fast and tried to stay out of the sun.

Going there was well worthwhile and I would certainly go back many times. Charleston itself is full of little formal gardens shuttered off from the street by ornate gates. There is still much talk and evidence of the damage done to the area from hurricane Hugo that swept in there in 1989.

In Atlanta, we went to the Atlanta Botanical Garden, which is a masterpiece in having examples of all kinds of plants from all over the world. In order to display them and keep them growing, they have built structures to provide the kind of climate the various plants need from desert to steamy tropical jungles. I was especially impressed by the rose garden, which had at least fifty varieties. There was a huge domed glasshouse that contained tropicals and many plants that we are familiar with here. I found one fibrous begonia that had leaves growing out of the main leaves.

This garden was very orderly compared to Magnolia Gardens and most of the plants were attractively displayed and labeled with both the scientific name and the common name.

In Savannah, the main part of the old town has numerous squares with residences surrounding them. Picture old-fashioned southern mansions of many balconied stories standing in stately rows surrounded by huge trees draped with Spanish moss.

As I toured these gardens, I wondered in what category of the plant kingdom Spanish moss is. On returning home, I looked it up and found that it is a member of the bromeliad family, *Tillandsia usneoides*, which grows outdoors in warm climates. The stems can be twenty feet or more. I read that it is processed commercially for use as packing or stuffing material.□

Robert Horwitz is a retired aerospace engineer who gardens in the Point Loma section of San Diego.

Now is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND *CALIFORNIA GARDEN* STAFF

AFRICAN VIOLETS
Helen LaGamma

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP violets well groomed.

TO KEEP the area clean. Continue to wipe down the growing area with mild solution of Lysol and water.

TO SPRAY the leaves with warm water; cool water will chill the plants.

TO LEAVE air space between the plants.

TO KEEP pans of wet pebbles among the plants for added humidity; very important during hot weather.

TO USE cool light tubes — keep plants out of direct sunlight.

BEGONIAS
Margaret Lee

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FEED tuberous begonias in September as long as the leaves remain green.

TO START withholding water from the tuberous variety in October and do not feed them again.

TO GIVE a final feeding of the year to your regular begonias in October, unless you have fed all year with a balanced fertilizer.

TO TAKE cuttings and plant them to increase your collection and to share.

BONSAI
San Diego Bonsai Club

NOW IS THE TIME

TO ADJUST watering schedule to the variable weather. Shallow pots may require two or three daily waterings on hot, dry, windy days.

TO TRANSPLANT wisteria if you want blossoms next spring.

TO REPOT quince, olives, and podocarpus.

TO MOVE deciduous trees to cool, shaded areas if you live in Southern California, so they will not sprout any new growth.

TO FERTILIZE only lightly or not at all in October if you fertilized in September.

TO WAIT until spring for any major transplanting.

BROMELIADS
Mary Siemers

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER plants according to the weather (temperature), but do not allow the soil to become soggy.

TO CUT new offshoots (pups) and pot them while weather is still warm. Offshoots must be ⅓ to ½ the size of the mother plant.

TO KEEP plants clean by cutting spent blooms and dead leaves.

TO REPOT plants that need larger pots (use next size larger).

TO ALWAYS USE new potting mix, making sure it is one that allows fast drainage.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS
Joseph A. Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH plants and fertilize less as they go dormant. The winter growers need more fertilizer and water as they start to grow.

TO MAINTAIN the growth pattern of the plant. Look for signs of growth as the season changes.

TO WATCH weather situations as changes can occur very fast in our area. Be sure to protect from the hot days that still may occur.

TO TRANSPLANT actively growing seedlings and rooted cuttings now so they can get established before winter.

TO CLEAN the area where plants are grown.

TO PREVENT insect pests from building into major problems. Look at your plants carefully and check for mealybugs, mites, aphids, and snails; treat appropriately.

CAMELLIAS
Les Baskerville

NOW IS THE TIME

TO MAINTAIN a regular watering program during development to keep plants damp but not soggy.

TO SPRAY with Sun-spray ultra fine oil or

Malathion to control insects.
TO START or continue to disbud for better blooms, leaving one bud per cluster or one bud per branch for show quality blooms.
TO CONTINUE feeding with cottonseed fertilizer.
TO APPLY iron and zinc supplement, if indicated by pale foliage with darker green veins.
TO PROTECT plants from full sun to prevent burn.
TO MULCH to keep plants cool.

DAHLIAS
Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME
TO CLEAN up old leaves and stalks, preparing for fall and winter.
TO SPRAY to prevent mildew and spider mites.
TO MAINTAIN a regular watering program until the first of October, then cut down watering gradually.
TO FEED with potash to promote good root growth. It also helps to keep plants healthier during the winter.

EPIPHYLLUMS
Epiphyllum Society

NOW IS THE TIME
TO PROTECT plants from exposure to direct sunlight.
TO SPRAY-MIST to provide moisture during warm spells and keep stems clean and free of dust. Spraying of foliage occasionally can be beneficial.
TO PREVENT soil from completely drying out.
TO PROTECT new growth from wind damage; stake plants and carefully tie to a trellis.
TO CHECK for snails and slugs; a few granules of Sluggeta at the base of the plant are often effective and leave little to no residue.
TO GIVE plants a final feeding for fall — use a balanced fertilizer before they become semi-dormant.

FERNS
San Diego Fern Society

NOW IS THE TIME
TO REMOVE dead fronds.
TO PLANT spores of all varieties.
TO PROTECT from hot sun, but give maximum light.
TO WATER and maintain humidity by keeping surrounding areas damp but not soggy.
TO FERTILIZE once with high nitrogen fertilizer.
TO CHECK for aphids, mealy bugs and scale; if present use Malathion-50.
TO KEEP snails, pill bugs and slugs under control use metaldehyde granules.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES
Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME
TO CONTINUE periodic, thorough irrigation to maintain adequate soil moisture until winter rains begin.
TO OPERATE drip irrigation systems until we receive at least two inches of rain to prevent salt injury.
TO PRUNE out dead and severely damaged shoots of deciduous trees before foliage drops.
TO COVER maturing grape clusters with paper bags (poke small holes in the bags for ventilation) to protect maturing fruit from yellow jackets and birds.
TO CHECK on maturity of kiwi fruit. Maturity is measured by a change in seed color from white to brown or black. Pick large fruit first, but harvest before fruit softens.

FUCHSIAS
William Selby

NOW IS THE TIME
TO PICK off spent blooms and seed pods.
TO MAINTAIN humidity by keeping areas sprayed. Be careful not to overwater, but mist during hot, dry, windy days. It is best to water in the early morning, or in the cool of evening.
TO CONTINUE fertilizing for fall and winter blooms.
TO SPRAY as required for insect control. Be sure to wet the underside of leaves, the hiding place for egg laying.
TO MAKE cuttings while removing leggy growth — use the tender tips. October is a better month to propagate new plants.
TO KEEP cuttings in a cool place for four to six days; keep moist but not wet or soggy.

GERANIUMS (Pelargoniums)
Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME
TO WATER thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow the excess water to drain away. Water in advance of a Santa Ana. Keep foliage as dry as possible. Use caution when watering commercial plants grown in coir (coconut fiber). It will appear dry on the surface although the center is still moist. These

plants are easily overwatered.

TO CONTINUE feeding a soluble, balanced fertilizer with micronutrients. Use less than the recommended amount, but apply as often as necessary to avoid nutritional deficiencies.

TO CONTINUE a pest control and disease prevention program using all products according to the manufacturers' instructions.

TO BEGIN pruning, even if plants are still blooming. On regals, scenteds and similar types, at least one green leaf should be left on each stem being cut back.

TO MAKE cuttings from prunings. Trim and insert into a moistened, sterile medium. Shelter cuttings from extreme weather.

TO KEEP all the plants tidy by removing faded flowers and discolored leaves.

TO CONTINUE to rotate plants on a regular basis in order to keep them well shaped.

HERBS
John Noble

NOW IS THE TIME

TO HARVEST and store your herbal rewards—ginkgo leaves, yerba mansa roots, rosehips, lemongrass leaves, chastetree berries, etc.

TO MAKE dried flower bouquets and wreaths with lavender, rosemary, oregano, sweet annie, statice, yarrow, Queen Anne's lace, etc.

TO PRUNE back dried leaves and dried flowers of the summer flowering perennials—foxglove, feverfew, mullein, mint, sage, thyme, etc.

TO PLANT bulbs of saffron (*Crocus sativus*)

TO PREPARE clean and amend garden areas for cool weather herbs—calendula, mustard, garlic, chives, etc.

TO WAIT for the rain to signal the beginning of the planting season.

IRIS
Iris Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CLEAN beds and discard old fans and debris.

TO DIVIDE and plant clumps of bearded irises.

TO FEED established tall bearded that are not being divided.

TO PLANT beardless irises: spuria, Siberian, Louisiana, and Japanese varieties. Louisiana and Japanese are grown in pots, pools or in swampy conditions.

TO PLANT Dutch irises in October for spring bloom.

NATIVES
Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME

TO GET ready for fall planting. Plants will be avilable in October and early November at various sales throughout the state.

TO HAVE the location selected and the ground prepared making sure that the drainage is good for the drought-tolerant natives. If you have a boggy area, consider *Anemopsis, Mimulus guttatus* or *M. cardinalis*. These are all water loving natives.

TO INCREASE the waterering schedule as our normal rainfall period approaches. When watering, always make sure that the water goes down below the roots. Drought tolerance is based on deep rooting, which is based on infrequent deep waterings.

TO DIG holes twice as deep and twice as wide as the plant you are putting in. Then mix a good potting soil 50-50 with native soil. Water well when planting and again in 2-3 days to insure that there are no air pockets around the roots.

TO FERTILIZE with a weak solution. I find that ½ strength is about right for the natives.

TO REMOVE weeds. Natives find it difficult to compete with weeds, which rob the soil of nutrients and water.

ORCHIDS
Charles Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME

TO STAY alert for Santa Ana winds with their high heat and low humidity. Frequent misting during this debilitating period will help plants, including orchids.

TO START Nobile *Dendrobium* on a 0-10-10 diluted fertilizer program. Be sure to leach the traces of other fertilizers from the pot. When the leaves drop from your Nobile *Dendrobium*, stop fertilizing and watering —just keep the pot damp over winter and protect from total freeze. When the new leaves start in spring, after plants flower, resume watering.

TO WATCH *Paphiopedilum* during hot dry days. Remember this is a transition period (we may see a rapid decline in warm weather in October). *Paphiopedilum* and other non-bulbous orchids have no water storage capacities and must be misted more at this time than at any other.

TO WATCH for snails and slugs—see your local nursery person for the latest in pest control. Keep a sharp watch for red spider—they grow and multiply during this time of year. When spraying, get under the leaves—that is where they congregate. Use insecticides

that are non-petroleum based. Again, see your nursery person for proper application.

TO MIST seedlings and other plants early in the morning to prevent shock of cold water on warm leaves. Also, when watering your *Phalaenopsis*, try to water in the early part of the day. *Phalaenopsis* and other Vandacious orchids can take a great amount of light if the leaves are cooled by generous air movement to take the heat away from the hot leaves. Cold water on warm leaves will cause tissue to break down and die.

TO SHUT down the swamp cooler when the weather cools at the end of October. Drain the bottom and unplug the unit. Oil the motor and the oil cups on the fan. Patch any holes in the bottom with a patching compound. Check the water pump and cover for the winter.

ROSES
Marianne Truby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO ENCOURAGE your rose bushes to produce the glorious blooms they are capable of during the fall months and on into the holiday season. Given consistent loving care your fall roses can be the most beautiful of the growing season.

TO CONTINUE clean-up started in late August into the first week of September. Your bushes are frequently leggy and/or have produced rose hips during the summer. Remove about the top third of the canes, eliminate twiggy growth but do not remove foliage. (Do not strip leaves as we do in January). The lower you cut, the longer the time to produce new blooms. Paint cuts the size of pencil or larger with white glue to deter borers that are active at this time of the year.

TO SELECT an area of your garden and try using a pre-emergent weed preventer if you have not done so before. I have been very happy with this product and believe it has helped me keep rust problems at a minimum.

TO MULCH clean beds to keep weeds under control and to feed on alternate weeks with organics such as blood meal, cottonseed, fish and/or kelp meal. The warm soil and the organics will work wonders for your bushes.

TO APPLY iron chelate, zinc, and epsom salts each month and to disbud daily to produce large blooms and deep green foliage.

TO BE ALERT for unusual weather conditions. When Santa Ana winds occur, maintain moisture level, keep plant foliage clean by washing off bushes in early morning. Until fall rains come water, water, water!

TO TRY propagating with cuttings!

TO REPOT rootbound potted roses in late October.

TO VISIT fall flower shows, assess your existing roses for possible replacement.

VEGETABLES
Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REMOVE warm-season vegetables badly damaged by pests or diseases and those that are past their prime production period.

TO PREPARE soil for planting cool-season vegetables by incorporating composted organic matter and a pre-plant fertilizer high in phosphorus. Begin planting cool-season vegetables: broccoli, Brussels sprouts, beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, endive, fava beans, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, parsley, peas, potatoes (white), spinach, and turnips.

TO BUY seed of short-day onions like 'Grano', 'Granex', and 'Crystal Wax', as well as garlic cloves to plant in November for bulb production next summer. Onion sets can be planted for a quick crop of green onions but not for bulbs.

TO DIG sweet potatoes before any danger of frost. Be careful not to bruise roots. Dry thoroughly (one to two weeks), wrap in newspaper and store close to 60°F.

VEGETABLES, ANNUALS
from UC Cooperative Extension Publications

NOW IS ONE OF THE BETTER TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS

TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF: broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower — aster, baby's breath, canterbury bell, carnation, cineraria, daisy (African, Shasta, English), delphinium, Chinese forget-me-not, foxglove, hollyhock, lobelia (in Sept.), pot marigold (*Calendula officinalis*), fairy primrose (*Primula malacoides*), snapdragon, stock (*Matthiola incana*), sand verbena (*Abronia umbellata*), ranunculus, sweet William, pansy and viola.

TO PUT IN SEEDS OF: beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, endive, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, onions (dry, in Oct.), parsley, parsnips, peas, potatoes (Sept.), radishes, spinach, and turnips— alyssum, baby blue eyes, baby's breath, bachelor's button, African daisy, candytuft, columbine, gloriosa daisy (in Oct.) delphinium, forget-me-not, Chinese forget-me-not, gazania, hollyhock, and wildflowers.

SWEET PEAS

BY BARBARA S. JONES

AN UNOFFICIAL CONTEST to have the earliest bouquet of sweet peas existed in the 1920s and '30s in many San Diego neighborhoods. It was especially noteworthy if one had blooms by Christmas. We often had a small bouquet of fragrant flowers on our breakfast table, but not in the hot months of July, August, and September. I do not remember being impressed by the colors, light pastels, but the odor was marvelous. "Everyone" had a trellis or back fence covered with sweet peas.

Sweet peas have not been widely grown here in recent years, but there have been many new varieties developed and they are popular elsewhere. There are now brilliant dark and bright colors and there are dwarf varieties that do not need a support and can be grown in a container.

The decorative sweet pea is derived from a weedy wild Italian plant with purple-blue flowers, *Lathyrus odoratus*. It was first collected early in the eighteenth century, and by 1900 over 260 varieties had been developed. Even today, new ones are introduced every year and a wide selection of seeds is available.

Sweet peas need a sunny location with good air movement to grow well. It is important that the soil is rich. If you plan to have Christmas sweet peas, purchase an early blooming variety, begin preparing your soil for planting in September, and then follow Kate Session's instructions in early October. (It usually takes about three months from seed to flower, depending upon the weather.)

SWEET PEAS FOR CHRISTMAS

(*California Garden*, October 1939, Vol. 31 #4, Page 6)

Dig a trench about two feet deep and eighteen to twenty inches wide.
After all the soil has been removed, the basin of the trench should be spaded thoroughly.
Put in some small stones to help with drainage.
Put in a layer of well-rotted manure, or other humus.
Use topsoil to fill trench to within five or six inches of the top.
Some growers mix bone meal with the soil. Use about a quarter of a pound to a three or four foot row.
Flood the trench thoroughly, leaving the soil a little lower in center of trench.
Allow it to rest for a few days, keeping compost in a moistened condition in this interval.
Before sowing, the ground should be leveled, and the entire area in which the seeds are to be planted should be watered.
Twenty-four hours later sow the seeds.
Open the furrow about four inches deep.
Set the seeds about six inches apart.
Cover with one inch of fine soil, and compact it thoroughly.
Do not water it again until the seeds are up.
Cover with wire netting or brush to keep the birds from eating the plants.
Get good seeds and soak overnight.
Plant immediately, if you are planning blooms for Christmas.

Sweet peas were grown locally in the open ground when the above directions were written. Current instructions suggest that container grown plants be feed every two weeks during the blooming season with an all purpose liquid fertilizer. To prolong the blooming season, flowers should be removed immediately and not allowed to go to seed.

No part of the sweet pea—flower, seed, or foliage—is edible.□

Barbara S. Jones has gardened in San Diego for over fifty years. She is the San Diego Floral Association Historian.
Drawing courtesy the National Garden Bureau.

PEAS

BY ROBERT HORWITZ

HERE WE HAVE A vegetable that is fun to grow and it is at home in San Diego County. It is a cool weather plant and consequently it grows nicely along the coast and in to the inland valleys. Peas are climbers, so you must provide a suitable support for them to cling to and grow up upon. The easy way to do this is to put two six-foot stakes firmly into the ground spanning the row of dirt in which you plant the peas. Crisscross some heavy twine across and up and down between the stakes. Prepare the soil deeply, incorporating lots of humus and a well balanced fertilizer. Dig a four- or five-inch trench between the stakes and plant your peas. When the seedlings get to be about fifteen inches tall, fill the trench in gradually up to the original soil level. Do all this as soon as the ground temperature reaches 55 to 60 degrees. Keep the peas well, but not overwatered. Good deep soakings are better than frequent shallow waterings. The crop is ready to start picking when the pods reach a few inches in length and are rounded with the peas inside showing good form.

Breeders even have gone so far as to develop a type where you eat the shell and all, without choking on the string that seals the pod on top. Peas always bring up the memories of sitting on a grandmother's porch with a bowl of peas in the pod, shelling them leisurely while popping one pea per pod into the mouth and the rest in the container from which they will be taken to be prepared for dinner. Then there are the Chinese pea pods that are a variety that is picked early before the peas inside the pod form. You eat the pods themselves. Of course, you can grow the old fashioned types that have to be shelled and, alas, you discard the pods. Look on the seed shelves for the variety that pleases you the most, and there is nothing wrong with planting and growing several varieties so that things don't get monotonous. If you have the patience and a huge crop, you can let some peas dry in the shell and harvest them as dried peas to be saved for use later in the year.

I have four favorite uses for peas that are delineated in the following recipes, which are: pea soup, minted peas, peas and onions, and Chinese pea pods. All recipes serve four.

PEA SOUP

You can use either dried or fresh peas in this recipe. It is probably less expensive to use dried peas and they are available all year-around. This soup is quite hearty and is really a meal in itself.

1 cup of dried split peas, or two cups of fresh peas
2 medium potatoes, peeled
2 cups of water
1 large onion, diced finely
1 ham bone, or substitute four rashers of cooked bacon, crumbled
1 teaspoon of salt
1 bay leaf
1 small whole clove
½ cup of sour cream
¼ cup of chopped chives
freshly ground pepper

Put the peas, onion, bay leaf, clove, hambone (or bacon), salt and the water together in a suitable pan. Simmer until the dried peas are very soft, about 60-90 minutes. Remove the ham bone and if there is any ham left on the bone, remove it and put the meat back into the pot. Add the potatoes and cook until they are mushy. Remove the bay leaf and the clove. Allow to cool enough to place in a blender. Whirl until smooth. Serve either hot or cold, garnished with a dollop of sour cream and a sprinkling of chives and a few grindings of pepper.

MINTED PEAS

So simple, but so delicious!

2 cups of shelled fresh peas
1 teaspoon of dried mint leaves
½ cup of water
dash of salt
1 teaspoon of cornstarch

Bring the water to a simmer. Add the mint and cook for a few minutes to extract the flavor and soften the leaves. Add the peas. Combine the starch in a little water just to get it into a liquid form. Add to the pot. Stir until the liquid thickens. Serve hot.

PEAS AND ONIONS

This is a follow-on to the Minted Peas. Follow that recipe, except that before you start cooking the peas, cook a cup of small white stewing onions until they are just getting soft. Then, proceed with the Minted Peas recipe.

>>>

CHINESE PEA PODS

Just typing this recipe makes me hungry. Once you get all the ingredients prepared, the cooking takes very little time. You will need a wok or similar utensil, and a wooden spoon for the stir-frying activity.

2 cups of Chinese pea pods
1 cup of cooked, peeled small shrimp
1 clove of garlic, mashed
1 cup of sliced mushrooms
½ cup of sliced water chestnuts
½ cup of cashew nuts
1 tablespoon of soy sauce
1 tablespoon of cornstarch
1 cup of chicken stock
1 tablespoon of peanut or cooking oil

Heat the oil in the wok until very hot. Add all the ingredients, except the chicken stock and cornstarch. Stir-fry for one or two minutes. Mix the cornstarch into the stock and add to the wok. Stir until the liquid thickens and becomes smooth. The dish is ready to serve. I usually place a portion over cooked rice along with some gravy. MMMMM!□

("Beauty and the Beast," continued from page 138)
cold weather but will cheer up when spring arrives. You can prune lantana with impunity (also pruning shears).

Milkweed (*Asclepias spp.*) Many types are available, and there are many flower colors to choose from. Shop around. Culture requirements differ among the many varieties. *A. curassavica* is an easy milkweed to grow, has attractive flowers, and can be cut back to encourage bushy growth.

The nectar of plants in the milkweed family is delectable to many butterfly species. And the leaves sustain caterpillars of the king of the butterflies, the monarch. Enough said.

OTHER THINGS TO DO TO GET YOUR KINGDOM READY FOR BUTTERFLIES

Just as you think it is more fun to visit Disneyland on a sunny day, so do butterflies think it is better to visit your plant kingdom in the sunshine. Butterflies do not like overcast weather; they need sun for warmth since they cannot fly when they are too cold.

A sheltered, somewhat wind-free area is another enticement.

Remember how important mud puddles were when you were a child? They're still important—swallowtails are famous for "puddling," which means they siphon up nutrients like salts, which are concentrated in mud puddles as the water evaporates. So leave a mud puddle or two around—if you have well-draining soil you can bury a plastic basin in the ground and water it occasionally to keep the dirt moist.

Last but never least, don't be goofy and shoot pesticides all over the place. While you are spraying all that lethal stuff around the yard, you are killing beneficial insects in addition to destroying the very creatures you're trying to attract—the butterflies.

At this point in the tale, it might be a good time to present the moral of this particular story: Don't judge by first appearances. Didn't The Beast have a good heart? Many less-than-beautiful bugs (and other creatures too, by the way—some a lot closer to home if you know what I mean) bring much beauty into the world by their good deeds.

Anyway, back to gardening—if you are pesticide-prone, your garden fairy tale will have a bad ending.

Well, gardening boys and girls, it's time to create your very own fairy tale now that you know how to go about it.

With the right plants and garden environment to attract butterflies like the giant swallowtail, you can create your own magical kingdom.□

Text copyright by Pat Pawlowski, who is a writer and the wildlife garden designer for Animated Gardens.

Photograph by Bill Howell

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION TOURS DURING 1997-1998

BY DON BOYER AND ANN WATERS

DURING THIS PAST YEAR we have had the pleasure of visiting gorgeous gardens, mansions, and nurseries.

One such tour took us to the Pasadena Showcase House of Design with its 18,000 square foot mansion and four acres of park-like grounds. The home and grounds were decorated by over 50 interior and landscape designers. The interior was outstandingly beautiful; the grounds were spectacular and, at the same time, restful with many benches for sitting, relaxing and enjoying the view.

Next, Lotusland, near Santa Barbara, was our destination. This is a garden of unusual and rare species with separate areas devoted to such diverse plants as ferns, aloes, cacti, bromeliads, cycads, and baskets of epiphyllums hanging from trees. Another trip to Lotusland is scheduled for Wednesday 14 October 1998.

Prior to touring the 18-acre Ritz Carlton garden, each participant was provided a page of gardening tips and a list of each of the 150 varieties grown in this garden. Here are some examples:

AUSTRALIAN TREE FERN - Genus: *Cyathea cooperi [Alsophila, Sphaeropteris cooperi]* - Plant type: tree fern. Sun requirements: partial shade, full sun in fog belt. Water requirements: regular water. NOTES: Fastest growing of tree ferns. Can grow from 1′ spread to 6′ spread in one year.

BUTTERFLY BUSH - Genus: *Buddleia* - Plant type: evergreen or deciduous shrubs or small trees. Sun requirements: sun or light shade. Water requirements: water enough to maintain growth. NOTES: Blooms in spring from previous year's growth. Prune back hard after bloom. If pruned to a central leader, it resembles a beautiful flowering weeping willow.

COLUMBINE - Genus: *Aquilegia* - Plant type: perennials. Sun requirements: full sun or filtered shade. Water requirements: moderate water. NOTES: Attracts humming birds. Cut back old stems for second crop of flowers but leave some heads for sowing.

DAFFODIL - Genus: *Narcissus* - Plant type: bulbs. Sun requirements: sun; late kinds last well in light shade. Water requirements: water as needed during growth and bloom. NOTES: Gophers won't eat them. Spread from year to year. Divide in two to three years. Control snails and slugs.

GODETIA - Genus: *Clarkia* - Plant type: annuals. Sun requirements: full sun. Water requirements: keep soil moist from seeding to flowering. NOTES: Cut flowers keep for several days. Great along borders. Many species are native to Pacific Northwest.

During the leisurely two-hour tour, the assistant gardener (aided by the head gardener) described each plant's site and soil preference and recommended fertilizer and water requirements. Have you ever visited a garden where you were invited to take cuttings? Well, Ritz Carlton is the only one we have ever run across that did so. All others have posted signs warning the visitor not to pick seeds, nuts, flowers, etc. Lunch, provided as part of the tour price, was outstanding. Our final stop was at a San Juan Capistrano nursery where we found a wide range of perennials, many not available in our area.

The Anza Borrego Desert was alive with blooming plants when we visited there. We stopped at two locations and wandered among the fields of flowers and were rewarded with several plants of the elusive and rare desert lily. The desert flowers were gorgeous and our luncheon at El Zorro was equally great.

We hope to provide some special tours this coming year and are looking forward to having you join us.□

Don Boyer is a past president of San Diego Floral Association. Ann Waters is the tour director.

Columbine, *Aquilegia chrysantha*

Godetia, *Clarkia pulchella*

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Tuesday, October 6
Instructors, Martha Rosenberg and Kathy Walsh
Fee $25-member, $35-nonmember. Bring bucket, clippers, clothes pins, and wreath or heart form.

APPALACHIAN BASKET CLASS
Tuesday, October 13
Instructor, Martha Rosenberg
FEE $20-member $25-nonmember. Bring snippers, clothes pins, and bucket.

TWO-RING BASKET - TWO-DAY CLASS
Tuesdays October 20, 27
Instructors, Kathy Walsh and Martha Rosenberg
FEE $25-members, $30-nonmembers. Bring bucket and snippers.

CONTEMPORARY FLOWER ARRANGING
For Intermediate to Advanced Students
Tuesdays, November 3, 10, 17, 24
Instructor, Velma West
FEE $50 for four sessions, $20 if taken individually
Bring clippers, bucket, flowers, and containers.

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CALIFORNIA GARDEN MAGAZINE

KATE SESSIONS BOOK

The complete collection of writings by Kate Sessions in *California Garden* magazine from 1909 until 1939 is now available at the San Diego Floral Association office in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. The book contains a plant index and many changes in plant names, particularly scientific, have been noted. Often known as the "Mother of Balboa Park" she was also known as the "Aunt of San Diego." For over 50 years she devoted her life to helping people grow beautiful plants in San Diego. She tells how, in this book that is for sale in the San Diego Floral Office for $18.00 (tax included) — $15.00 (tax included) for members. If you wish a copy mailed to you, use the coupon below and enclose $3.00 for handling and mailing.

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Book Reviews

THE CONTAINER GARDEN: A Practical Guide to Planning & Planting

Thomasina Tarling

New York, Sterling Publishing Co., 1998, 128 pages, all in color, 9⅜" x 10½", hardcover, $16.95

Container gardening is definitely a "growing" trend. Everywhere you look these days it seems there are more and varied receptacles to hold our horticultural delights. *The Container Garden* is one of several books recently published on the subject. This book is quite beautiful and informative at the same time. Elegant photos and artful illustrations show numerous planted examples. It gives abundant information on how-to's from choosing and arranging containers to planting and maintaining them.

I have always gardened in containers either exclusively because of limited space or as enhancements in and around my garden. Hanging baskets, window boxes, gardens for children, rock gardens, and water gardens in containers are all options. You can grow plants to delight your palate from herbs and vegetables to fruit trees. With so many choices there is no excuse on this earth not to enjoy gardening. This book will make an excellent addition to any garden library for a very reasonable outlay.

Reviewed by Suzie Parker

SMITH & HAWKEN THE TOOL BOOK

William Bryant Logan

New York, Workman Publishing Co., 1997, 302 Pages, 530 color photos, 129 illustrations, 8" x 12", hardcover, $40.00

This attractive book can be a dream book, a wish book, or a reference book. Not only is it beautifully illustrated but all the pictures are labeled. The chapters are divided into kinds of tools and there are chapters on containers, clothes and gloves to wear, and care and sharpening of tools. Every type of tool has an Anatomy, a boxed sketch of the tool with all parts identified as to name and use. I learned that what I had called a shovel could be a scoop, a shovel, or a spade. Apparently Americans are dedicated to the shovel, but after reading about the uses of scoops and spades, I am encouraged to try them. The book even explains how to use tools efficiently and with less wear and tear on the user.

By the late nineteenth century technology and materials had developed to the point that basic tools were being made for every gardening purpose. Did you know that all the basic tools have been around for thousands of years and the shovel, hoe, and rake are all made basically in the shape of the human hand—the first gardening tool?

Reviewed by Barbara S. Jones

THE PASSIONATE OBSERVER: Writings from the World of Nature

Jean-Henri Fabre, Watercolors by Marlene McLoughlin

San Francisco, Chronicle Books, 1998, 132 pages, color throughout, 7⅝"x 9¼", hardcover, $21.95

The nineteenth century French entomologist Jean-Henri Fabre had a magical gift of translating his nature experiences into luminous adventures filled with drama and beauty. These selections from his ten volume *Souvenirs Entomologiques* are illustrated with glowing precision by McLoughlin, transforming bugs into jewels and landscapes into visions of paradise. Fabre devoted his most precious research years to the observation of insects in their natural surroundings. His accounts of their life processes—eating, mating, giving birth and dying—express his excitement of being in their world and witnessing the wonder of their lives. He literally leaves no stone unturned as he investigates the many influences and resources affecting his subjects. This zest for nature leads him also to discuss the mystery of his own life's influences; descended from hard-working farmers who disdained anything not directly related to active production, he can identify no hereditary basis for his passion for observing. It was education, first in a two-room country schoolhouse and eventually as a college science teacher, that led to his life's work. He examines this progression with the same joyful intensity that pervades his observation of wonders such as bird eggs, insect memories of their earliest surroundings, and the teeming life in a pond. All of it makes for pleasurable reading and looking.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

DESIGN AND PLANT A MIXED BORDER

Noel Kingsbury

New York, Sterling Publishing Co., 1998, 160 pages, color throughout, 7¾" x 10¼", hardbound, $29.95

A variety of plants, annuals and perennials, of many shapes, sizes, and hues, all mixed in a border, at the edge of a lawn, path, or patio, is the wide-ranging subject of this handsome book. First published in England, its terminology and "plant palette" require a bit of translation, especially its title concept, which, here in the colonies, might be better known as simply a garden bed. But rich descriptions and examples of design principles make this a book to be slowly absorbed and pondered for landscape inspiration anywhere in the world. Although there is an emphasis on design elements, such as repetition of form, seasonal color, and theme plantings, the author gives equal importance to the personal priority of planning a garden to suit the needs of favorite plants.

The bulk of the book is devoted to a wide variety of plant lists, from permanent and temporary planting combinations for different seasons to plants for vertical emphasis and other plant

shapes. Leaf forms and other sources of texture are listed and then we get to color: best blues, best whites, best reds and yellows, all with complete descriptions of size and form. From bulbs to climbers, and not excluding herbs and vegetables, there are descriptive examples and colored photos for every taste and garden situation. Even if your garden has been planted for ages, there is a section on adapting existing borders to the heights of glory shown in these pages.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

PATHS AND WALKWAYS: Simple Projects, Contemporary Designs
Hazel White
San Francisco, Chronicle Books, 1998, 114 pages, color throughout, 8¼" x 9", softcover, $16.95

Beautiful soft color photos embellish the author's descriptions of how art and function are combined in garden paths. The rustic atmosphere of the author's childhood in rural England is recalled in her obvious fondness for irregular stones as features of informal landscape designs. One of the most attractive paths shown is formed of wide flat boulders placed on a shallow slope leading to the beach and planted with sea lavender, sunroses, and poppies.

The author regards paths as garden bones and emphasizes the benefits of creating tension and mystery along the way to a destination. This all might seem too much for a small and simple backyard, but the examples that follow are too inviting to ignore. As the managing editor of the most recent *Sunset Western Garden Book*, the author effectively presents the specifics of landscapes designed to draw you into and through the garden. Each plan includes complete instructions for construction, including necessary paving and plant materials and a quick evaluation of its expense, difficulty, and best location. Most of the paths shown are informal using irregular stones or other paving, and most are set in sand. Formal brick and concrete pavers are included, as are gravel and wood.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

BACKYARD BATTLE PLAN: The Ultimate Guide to Controlling Wildlife Damage in Your Garden
Cooper Rutledge
New York, Penguin Books, 1998, 212 pages, 7⅝" x 9¼", 80 illustrations, soft cover, $16.95

Adapting Baron von Clausewitz's approach to battle, the author uses the famous warrior's dictum on analyzing the problem and the desired results. He then takes careful aim on all predators of the garden and promises peace and freedom from animals of all kinds. A self-described "conservationist," his unrelenting rejection of anything non-human within the garden walls makes that label a bit suspect. From alligators to woodchucks, and that includes birds, cats, and dogs, he names the many enemies of the garden, describes potential damage, control methods, and whatever folklore is relevant to the subject. The author has no patience, whatsoever, with emotional public outbursts regarding trespassing deer, rabbits, or bears. This may not be everyone's chosen approach to wildlife in the garden.

There are chapters about fencing, traps, and other ways of separating pests from the produce—all very inventive and practical. One chapter is devoted to **zoonoses**, diseases that are associated with or are transmitted by animals, and this is undoubtedly very valuable information relating to flea and tick bites, rabies, giardia, and other serious ailments.

The author's conservationist beliefs are clearly expressed in the final chapter when he again borrows from Clausewitz's advice that it is better to negotiate a victory than fight a battle. In this case, the issue is land use and the formation of wildlife reserves and connecting corridors as a preferred form of wildlife management. After all, he concludes, we all have to learn to share the planet. Amen.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

THE COMPLETE BOOK OF CUT FLOWER CARE
Mary Jane Vaughn
Portland, Timber Press, 1998, 145 pages, 112 b&w illustrations, 7¼" x 9¾", softcover, $19.95

The expanding flower industry has brought many new factors into the care and handling of cut flowers. Recognizing that a knowledge of these elements will enable the potential floral designer to make optimum use of what is at hand, either in the garden or on the florist's shelf, the author presents simple lists and descriptions of blooms, foliage, berries, and fruits that could be used in floral arrangements. Handsome black and white botanical drawings accompany information regarding species availability, vase life, and special care needs. Several pages describe various ways of preserving blooms, either by drying or standing them in glycerine, including a list of blooms most likely to succeed by these processes. A section on the principles of floral design, florist techniques, and containers round out this complete survey of flowers that can be bought or brought in from the garden for indoor enjoyment.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

GARDENER'S GUIDE TO GROWING PENSTEMONS
David Way and Peter James
Portland, Timber Press, 1998, 160 pages, 55 color photos, 7" x 9½", hardcover, $29.95

While this title seems directed toward the growers of penstemons, there is little doubt it is more a textbook, covering the botany and history of the genus penstemon to a depth suitable for the student of botany. In this regard, it is a thorough study of a subject obviously highly regarded by the authors. Written by those experienced in garden cultivation in areas far removed from Southern California, unfortunately, that portion of the text must be considered subject to change. Extensive information regarding penstemons around the world include the statement that the information relates to typical plants and habitats and they are covered in very general terms.

If you are now growing penstemons or wish to study them in depth you will find this volume an invaluable asset. At present, I have three different varieties growing in my garden and I find them "interesting" but do not intend to increase the number.

Reviewed by Marianne D. Truby

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The society meets the first Tuesday of every month at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Cultural classes start at 6:30 p.m. in the library, followed by the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. in room 101. Refreshments, orchid display, and an orchid raffle follow the meeting.

All this and a great monthly newsletter for only $10.00 (single membership) or $12.50 (dual membership) per year. Don't delay, make your check out today to the SDCOS and mail to:

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Join us to see how Southern California's outstanding landscape designers interpret this year's theme of the show, "Gardens of the Silver Screen," in their presentation of gardens for the home, condominium, and patio. This is just one of the many features of the show. Among others will be: floral designs by leading florists shown in the Robinson-May Floral Pavilion, a floral festival featuring arrangements by individuals and groups, garden room designs created by American Society of Interior Design members, free lectures and demonstration, the plant market, the bird garden, and the marketplace.

In addition, you can wander around the 127 acre botanical and horticultural museum. There is a wonderful herb garden, cycad collection, tropical and begonia greenhouses, a rose garden, several geographical collections, home gardens, etc. There is something for everyone. **LUNCH IS INCLUDED.**

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SATURDAY, 10 OCTOBER 1998

☐$40.00 Members (who pay dues to SDFA)
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Lunch IS Included

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☐**Red Lobster Park/Ride, Grossmont Ctr, La Mesa 7:00AM**
☐**Mission Valley on Camino del Este south of B/A 7:30AM**
☐**Hadley's at Palomar Airport Road - Carlsbad 8:00AM**

LOTUSLAND WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER 1998

Here is a special opportunity to visit the famous restricted garden in Montecito and IT'S A ONE-DAY TRIP! This fabulous garden was designed and built by opera singer Madame Ganna Walska with the assistance of landscape architects and expert horticulturists.

There are rare species of plants growing in astronomical numbers; areas devoted to ferns, aloes (one hundred different kinds), bromeliads, cacti, cycads (including three specimens of *Encephalartos woodii*, now extinct in the wild), euphorbias, dragon trees, etc. There is even a serene Japanese-influenced garden. The price includes a morning snack, a box lunch, garden admission, and a buffet dinner.

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
LOTUSLAND
WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER 1998

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☐**Red Lobster Park/Ride, Grossmont Center, La Mesa 6:00AM**
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☐**Hadley's at Palomar Airport Road, Carlsbad 7:00AM**

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